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father being one of the founders of the Meadville Theological Seminary. She began her botanical studies in the school of Horticulture in Jamaica Plain, continuing them by special courses under Gray, Goodale, and Farlow. Her activities, however, were not limited to botany alone, but extended to insects and minerals. On all of these she wrote many short papers, and one considerable article, a monograph upon the habits and life history of the caddis fly. Her careful observation, painstaking notes, and photographs gave her work great value.

She was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Council of the Boston Natural History Society. For more than thirty-five years she was the leader of the Botany Group of the New England Women's Club, to which she imparted her own enthusiasm for the study of all plants, giving assistance to all with a characteristic lack of ostentation. Likewise characteristic of her was the financial assistance that she gave to the publication of several papers. Her collections will be divided among the various societies of which she was a member.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

### How to Know the Mosses

By Elizabeth Marie Dunham<sup>1</sup>

This is a volume of 287 pages. As is announced on the title page, it is "A popular guide to the mosses of the Northeastern United States." It contains keys to eighty genera, and short descriptions of over one hundred and fifty species, with special reference to the distinguishing characteristics that are apparent without the aid of a lens.

Dr. Grout has written his "Mosses with a Hand Lens" in an effort at enlisting a larger number of field botanists with limited equipment for minute examination in the study of these rather ubiquitous denizens of field and woodland. This book by Mrs. Dunham, promises even a little better: it deals entirely with the gross aspect of mosses, as we meet them out of doors, without the aid of a *hand lens*.

The nomenclature followed is that of Dr. Brotherus, in Engler & Prantl's *Pflanzenfamilien*. The list of books used for reference excludes Lesquereux and James' *Manual* and Barnes' *Key to Mosses*.

In her commendable zeal to enlighten nature lovers, the writer, after treating preliminary matters, such as the branching of stems, the shape and disposition of leaves and of capsules, gives even a "Key to distinguish mosses from hepatics and lichens."

Pages 41-69 include two keys: first, a *leaf key*; second, a *capsule key*, both to genera. The student is from these keys referred by number to the eighty numbered genera, pages 73 to 257, to verify or correct the key determination.

Certainly these keys have the very excellent feature of emphasizing and calling attention to the mode of occurrence, substratum, and general field aspect of the genera of mosses treated in a way that will be helpful even to the more ex-

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<sup>1</sup> Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston. Mass. Price \$1.25 net.

perienched field student and collector. The book ought to be especially helpful to high school and college botany teachers who include some field work in their courses, as they should. And whereas, at present, the moss students in any one state can, on the average, be counted on the fingers of one hand, Mrs. Dunham's book is likely to increase them to hundreds.

The book does not pretend to take up the pigmy genera like *Archidium*, *Astomum*, *Bruchia*, *Ephemerum*, *Micromitrium*, *Phascum*, and *Sphaerangium*. It even omits *Ptychomitrium*, *Rhabdoweisia*, *Seligeria*, *Zygodon*, *Coscinodon*, *Dicranodontium*, and *Dicranoweisia*, genera represented by species in the geographic area treated; still, the stimulus from it should be felt in every state east of the Rocky Mountains.

The typography is clear and excellent. The illustrations scattered through the book are helpful to beginners. The accents for the frequently long technical names are given with great fidelity to classical principles. However, I wish here to correct two errors in accent. One is on page 156: *Catharinâa* needs to be accented on the penult, because this is long, being a diphthong. The other is on page 213: *Drepanôcladus* must get the accent on the antepenult, because the "a" of the penult is short in quantity, as given in the Greek lexicons, in  $\kappa\lambda\acute{\alpha}\delta\delta\omicron\varsigma$ , a shoot or branch. On page 220, the varietal name *Mackayi* ought by rights also to be accented on the penult; but here usage has probably some claim to fix the accent on the antepenult.

WINONA, MINN., AUG. 1, 1916

JOHN M. HOLZINGER

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### Mosses, in the Natural History of Madagascar

By Renault and Cardot

"Histoire physique, naturelle et politique de Madagascar, publiée par A. et G. Grandidier: Vol. xxxix. *Mousses*, par F. Renault et J. Cardot. I vol. gr. in 4to, de 560 pages et atlas de 187 planches. Prix: 467 fr. 50. Librairie Hachette et Cie., 79 boulevard St. Germain, Paris."

After the death of M. Renault, M. Cardot was forced to continue this great work alone, but fortunately it was finished a few weeks before the opening of the war. In consequence of the outbreak of the war, the printing of the work which was started near the close of 1913, has just been completed. The systematic portion is preceded by two chapters dealing with the topography, climate, geology and bryo-geography of Madagascar. The systematic portion itself includes the description of nearly 550 species, of which more than half are endemic. Each description is accompanied by the necessary synonymy, and by more or less extended critical notes. A rather large number of species are described for the first time, as well as one new genus upon the authority of M. Cardot alone, since it was only recognized after the death of his collaborator. In the 187 plates, 360 species are figured.

Only 150 copies are placed on sale, 100 of which are reserved solely for the subscribers to the complete work.

PARIS, MARCH 26, 1916.

J. CARDOT